

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 1-20 have been amended to improve the form thereof. Claims 1-20 are pending for further examination.

Claims 1-5, 11-18 and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Colvill in view of Bollman. Claims 6-10 and 19 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Colvill and Bollman, and further in view of Hisano. For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims herein are not rendered obvious by the cited prior art. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

An objective of the claimed invention is to provide a television game machine and a television game image print service system enabling a user to select an image of a virtual world constructed in a television game and print out the selected image, so that the user can carry a desired game image at will and show it to someone at an arbitrary place. In order to realize this objective, the television game machine according to certain of the independent claims comprises: a game image generator for generating the game image by executing a game image generation program according to a game progression as dictated by a user playing the game; a selector for selecting an arbitrary part of said generated game image, according to instructions from said user; a transition information generator for generating transition information when said game image is selected; and a transition

information storage for storing said transition information. Also, the game image arbitrarily selected by said user is recoverable at a future time according to the transition information stored in said transition information storage and said game image generation program.

The invention disclosed in Colvill generates an image to be displayed on a monitor in response to an operation by a user. However, Colvill does not enable the user to print out an arbitrarily-selected image of a virtual game world, which is generated according to a game progression as dictated by a user playing the game. Thus, as the Examiner points out in the Office Action, Colvill fails to disclose "a television game machine comprising: selecting means for selecting arbitrary part of said generated object image, according to instructions from said user; transition information generating means for generating transition information when said object image is selected; and transition information storage means for storing said transition information, the television game machine capable of recovering the game image arbitrarily selected by said user at a future time according to the transition information stored in said transition information storage means and said game image generation program."

Also, Colvill et al. fails to disclose that the game image arbitrarily selected by the user is recoverable at a future time.

Bollman provide a method of varying image appearance of a portion of an electronic image on a display screen, with a softened edge transition to the adjacent area (see ABSTRACT). Thus, Bollman fails to disclose, much less suggest, any of the

features of the claimed invention. Specifically, the selecting means disclosed in Bollman (FIG. 1, item 40/column 4, lines 51-58), which the Examiner believes corresponds to the selecting means of the claimed invention, is used for defining an area to be dodged, and therefore differs from the selector of the claimed invention for selecting an arbitrary part of a game image. Also, descriptions in Bollman (column 4, lines 10-16, and column 4, lines 39-45), which the Examiner believes respectively correspond to the transition information generating means and the transition information storage means of the claimed invention, pertain to selection for color change. On the other hand, the transition information of the claimed invention indicates which part of a game image is selected under which conditions.

Moreover, a description in Bollman (column 5, lines 34-35) pertains to modification based on the luminance/chrominance of an original image. Such a description is irrelevant to the claimed invention, in which a game image arbitrarily selected by the user is recoverable at a future time according to the transition information and the game image generation program.

Hisano provides an I/O expansion device enabling to expand new inputs and outputs (see ABSTRACT), which is obviously different from the claimed invention. Hisano does not even mention or suggest anything about a game and a game machine, much less features of the claimed invention. Also, for example, the Examiner indicates that "the object image generator, which is the object image display apparatus as claimed in claim 1, for generating the object image according to progress of game which varies in

response to instructions from the user" is disclosed in Hisano in column 21, lines 12-23. However, Hisano merely describes in column 21, lines 12-23 that "[t]hus, using the I/O expansion devices shown in the above examples which is connectable to the personal computer via the parallel interface, a personal computer with good portability and available for various application is provided." In other words, Hisano does not disclose the selector, the transition information generator, or the transition information storage of the claimed invention. Therefore, it is impossible in Hisano to recover the game image arbitrarily selected by the user at a future time.

As explained above, Colvill, Bollman, and Hisano do not enable a user to print out an arbitrarily-selected image of a virtual game world, which is generated according to a game progression as dictated by a user playing the game. As such, the technical field and the objective of the claimed invention are distinct from those of the inventions described in Colvill, Bollman, and Hisano. Moreover, Colvill, Bollman, and Hisano fail to disclose or even suggest any features corresponding to the transition information generator and the transition information storage of the claimed invention for allowing the game image arbitrarily selected by the user to be recovered at a future time. Therefore, the television game machine of the claimed invention is not rendered obvious by the combination of Colvill, Bollman, and Hisano. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicant believes that all of the pending claims clearly and patentably distinguish the prior art of record and are in

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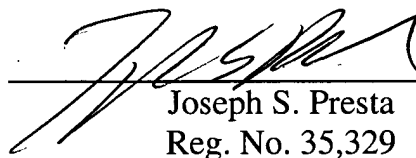
condition for allowance. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection and passage of this case to issuance at an early date are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, or deem that any further issues need to be addressed prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the phone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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